GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2500
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
SYNTHETIC MILK
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of recent reports alleging widespread sale of synthetic milk ;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the ingredients of the same ; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent its sale ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): There is no definition of `Synthetic Milk` under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. By `Synthetic Milk` one would normally understand a product analogous to `natural milk` in its physical, chemical and nutritional properties. `Synthetic milk` is the name given by the press to an artificial concoction of genuine milk and adulterants like vegetable fat, sugar and chemicals, i.e. liquid detergent, caustic soda, urea, castor oil, hydrogen peroxide, sodium sulphate etc. that is reported to be used by some unscrupulous trades in some of the northern states to increase the fat percentage of milk and which is harmful to human health.

(c): Sale of milk and milk products containing substance not provided in the PFA Rules, 1955 is already prohibited under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Sale of any `adulterated` and `misbranded` article of food is an offence punishable with minimum imprisonment of 6 months and with fine which shall not be less than Rs.1000/-. In case adulterated food stuff causes death or grievous hurt, the offence is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs.5000/-.

The Food (Health) Authorities in the States/UTs have been requested from time to time to take necessary action to keep a strict vigil on the quality of milk sold as they are responsible for implementation and enforcement of the PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955.